

From: DAVID MEEKS

Subject: **Waterloo Police Department use of Force, Tazers summary**

The Waterloo Commission on Human Rights within its mission of ensuring the person dignity, respect, and value of all our community while preserving the protection of our rights. In order to complete our mission the Commission has continued to partner with all facets of our community to engage in ongoing dialogue to build relationships and improve our community.

The Commission has continued to partner with local law enforcement in order to increase awareness and bridge gaps between the public perceptions and the actual practice of our Police Department. Police Chief Tom Jennings and his staff have assisted in participation and cooperation for joint police and public training for this year, which began with Department of Justice training in May 2006, followed with public "racial profiling" hearings during June 2006, and continued with police and public study circle discussion groups during November 2006. In addition, there is a Waterloo Police & Citizen's Academy. Police officers began training for Tazer weapon usage in July 2006 and all officers were mandated to participate within a set timeframe.

One prominent area of public concern has been the police usage of Tazer weapons as a tool for disabling suspects. The Commission in a partnership effort with the police have continued to track the use of all "tools of force" by the police since August 2006. This in an effort to identify the public concern and the reality of the actual police practice.

Major Public Tazer Usage Concerns:

- African-Americans and other minorities would be the primary recipients and targets of police Tazer usage.
- African-Americans and other minorities would receive brutality and other physical abuse as a result of the police use of Tazers.
- Tazers would unduly injure and maim individuals.
- Police officers would abuse the usage of Tazer weapons.
- Tazer usage within itself would be a deadly force and cause death of its victims.

Actual Waterloo Police Tazer Usage from 8/06 to 11/06 (4 months):

August Total Usage ((Tazer Displayed)= 10 times

By Race: Black involved six times, white involved three times, Asian involved one time.

Deployed (actually used)= 4 times. By Race: Black 3 and White 1.

Injuries= There were no medical treatments required or requested.

September Total Usage (Tazer Displayed)= 8 times

By Race: White involved five times, and Black involved three times.

Deployed (Actually used)= 5 times. By race: White 4 and Black 1.

Injuries= 2-minor, treated and released. Both were White.

October Total Usage (Tazer Displayed)= 14 times

By race: Black involved ten times, White involved three times, and Hispanic involved 1 time.

Deployed (Actually used)= 5 times. By Race: Black 4 and Hispanic 1.

Injuries= There were no medical treatments required or requested.

November Total Usage (Tazer Displayed)= 11 times

By Race: White involved seven times, Black involved three times, Hispanic involved one time.

Deployed (Actually used)= 6 times. By Race: White 4, Black 1, and Hispanic 1.

Injuries= 3-minor treated and released. 2 were White and 1 Hispanic.
1-minor, complaint of pain. Black.

While the Commission on Human Rights and the entire community would like to see no need for use of force by law enforcement. The reality is that use of force as a tool in law enforcement practice is a reality.

The Commission within its mission of bridging the community and expanding awareness shares this information in the interest of public awareness. The Commission will continue to report this information on police use of force tools such as Tazer usage on a quarterly basis or as necessary. This as an ongoing partnership between the police and the Commission in order to share information and measure public perception and police practice in Waterloo. We continue to strive to improve the quality of life in our community.

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Waterloo Commission on Human Rights

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"When it comes to inclusion everyone counts, all the time"